

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSC-01 /066 W

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R 231204Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7345

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 0697

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: KENYAN POLITICS: NGEI WINS BY-ELECTION; CABINET CHANGES
RUMORED

REF 75 NAIROBI A-125, 75 NAIROBI 10745

1. PAUL NGEI, FORMER MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
VETERAN KAMBA POLITICIAN WHO WAS UNSEATED AS MP FOLLOWING
SUCCESSFUL PETITION CHALLENGING HIS OCTOBER 1974 ELECTION
AND THEN MYSTERIOUSLY PARDONED BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA (SEE
REFERENCES), HAS WON LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN A PARLIAMENTARY
BY-ELECTION. NGEI OBTAINED NEARLY 3:1 MAJORITY OVER HIS
SOLE OPPONENT, HIGHLY RESPECTED FORMER KENYAN AMBASSADOR
TO PARIS, HENRY MULLI. MARGIN OF VICTORY RESTORES NGEI
TO PREVIOUSLY-HELD POSITION AS PRE-EMINENT KAMBA AND AS
BKUCH, ONE OF HANDFUL OF KENYA'S LEADING TRIBAL LEADERS.

2. ELECTION RESULT HAS GENERATED SPECULATION THAT
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NGEI'S EXPECTED RE-ENTRY INTO GOVERNMENT MAY OCCASION

CABINET RESHUFFLE. EXCEPT FOR DISMISSAL IN JUNE 1975
OF ONE MINISTER AND 2 ASSISTANT MINISTERS WHO
VOTED AGAINST GOK SPONSORED AMENDMENT TO KARIUKI
REPORT, GOVBRNMENT (21 MINISTERS, 31 ASSISTANT MINISTERS)
HAS REMAINED BASICALLY UNCHANGED SINCE FORMATION OF NEW
GOVERNMENT AFTER 1974 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. SEVERAL
OBSERVERS EXPECT THAT CABINET CHANGES, IF THEY IN FACT
OCCUR, WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIMINISHED PROSPECTS OF
TWO PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS, VICE-PRESIDENT MOI AND
MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY KIANO AND COULD ALSO
REFLECT MORE OPENLY PRESENT STRONG POSITION OF KIAMBU
KIKUYU INNER CIRCLE.

DECON 1/1/77
MARSHALL

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